

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a non-final Office Action dated February 25, 2004. Claims 1-15 and 23-30 were examined. The drawings are object to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Claims 1-15, 23, 24, 26, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,057,743 to Aekins.

Drawings

New Figures 1A and 1B have been included to provide perspective views of the configuration depicted in FIG. 1, corresponding to description included in the application beginning at page 6, lines 4-22. No new matter is added.

Specification

The specification has been amended to include references to FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 1 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1-15, 23, 24, 26, and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully maintains that “aperture” or “apertures”, “voltage plane” or “voltage planes,” and “portions of the traces that are essentially parallel to each other and which traverse a respective aperture” are described at least in FIG. 1, FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B, and related portions of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-24, 26, and 29-30 be withdrawn.

Art Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,057,743 to Aekins. Applicant respectfully maintains that Aekins, alone or in combination with other references of record fails to teach or suggest

means defined along the traces for inducing compensating crosstalk signals having opposing polarity to initial crosstalk signals associated with mutual coupling between adjacent of the off-assembly connections,

as recited in claim 25. The Office action relies on Fig. 1; col. 3, lines 18-39; col. 4, lines 15-57; and col. 5, lines 5-24 of Aekins to supply this teaching. These portions of Aekins teach “the crosstalk induced in printed wiring board 20 in circuit section B tends to cancel the crosstalk induced across and between the respective input and output terminals in the input and output sections A and B of the connector.” Col. 4, lines 40-44. However, Aekins mentions nothing about crosstalk signals associated with mutual coupling between adjacent off-assembly connections, as required by claim 25. Thus, Aekins, alone or in combination with other references of record, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of claim 25. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 25 and all claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

Claim 26 is amended to correct a typographical error.

In summary, claims 1-15 and 23-30 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being

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Nicole Teitler Cave

5/24/04
Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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